

Village of Ardentown
Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922
Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30pm on Monday, February 8, 2016. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

In Attendance:

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Betty Ann Themal</i> | 14. <i>Mhari Craig</i> | 27. <i>Sandie Cooper</i> |
| 2. <i>Harry Themal</i> | 15. <i>Stuart Craig</i> | 28. <i>Sue Mearkle</i> |
| 3. <i>Pat Lane</i> | 16. <i>Barbara Mondzelewski</i> | 29. <i>Ann Balogh</i> |
| 4. <i>Joan Fitzgerald</i> | 17. <i>Rusty Hoegger</i> | 30. <i>Drew Hansen</i> |
| 5. <i>Annie Gutsche</i> | 18. <i>Hardy Hoegger</i> | 31. <i>Katrina Nelson</i> |
| 6. <i>Terri Hansen</i> | 19. <i>Hans Francke</i> | 32. <i>Renata Brito-Cherrin</i> |
| 7. <i>Suzanne Maguire</i> | 20. <i>Hugh Phibbs</i> | 33. <i>Sue Cherrin</i> |
| 8. <i>Cheryl Regan</i> | 21. <i>Joan Phibbs</i> | 34. <i>Maureen Gordon</i> |
| 9. <i>Steve Cohen</i> | 22. <i>Paul Romangano</i> | 35. <i>Katie Donovan</i> |
| 10. <i>Cindy Cohen</i> | 23. <i>Chris Monson</i> | 36. <i>Tim Donovan</i> |
| 11. <i>Alison Wakelin</i> | 24. <i>Peter Slattery</i> | 37. <i>Sandy Landerl</i> |
| 12. <i>June Kleban</i> | 25. <i>Steven Curley</i> | 38. <i>Elaine Schmerling</i> |
| 13. <i>Edmund Bischoff</i> | 26. <i>Tim Donovan</i> | |

MEETING: Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Annie Gutsche, Town Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 2015 meeting were approved as written.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: Betty Ann Themal reporting:

New Leaseholders:

2313 Sconset Road- Frederick D'Andrea to Erin Malone

2305 East Mall- Gilbert and Sheila Johnston to Melissa and William Parsonson

TREASURER'S REPORT: Holly Custer

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Operating Accounts: | \$ 39,026.16 |
| Municipal Street Aid: | \$ 11,293.78 |
| <u>Arden Building and Loan:</u> | <u>\$ 23,029.13</u> |
| Total Funds Available: | \$73,349.07 |

BUDGET: Steven Curley reporting. Very little change from the last year's budget. Budget passed unanimously as proposed. Budget available for review on request, please contact the Town Secretary at ardently@verizon.net to request a copy be sent to you.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: BettyAnn Themal - The Committee will be addressing the ruts in the grassy area outside the fence on Swiss Lane. The Trustees have designated money for this work from their budget.

Terri Hansen is working with a group of local homeschoolers to document, map and post the Ardentown Memorial Garden on the www.findagrave.com website. The current record found on findagrave is inaccurate and combines the Ardentown and Arden Memorial Gardens under one file, the work done by Terri Hansen and the homeschoolers (including Connor Hansen) will fix this problem.

PUBLIC WORKS:**Roads – Joan Warburton-Phibbs:**

We are looking into a company that does pothole repair with a heat activated patch. We will test it on a pothole first and check durability; the bags of patch material are slated to last for five years. Patching will help save money spent annually on roads, so that long stretches of roads can be repaired. Bruce Downing will give us estimates on large areas of roads to repair and the associated costs. The gutter issue in front of 1521 Woodland will be addressed soon – the estimated cost of this repair is over \$3,500.

Signs – Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan:

Two stop signs and one Caution/Children Playing sign will be installed at the intersection of Swiss Lane and Via Italia this Spring. Delaware Correctional Industries can make wooden road signs for us, at about the same cost. They will be making two different samples for us to look at.

Snow/sand – Paul Romagano:

No complaints heard about the snow removal during January blizzard. We do not have the bill for the total cost yet. The sand barrels are once again being used for trash and dog waste. There was a discussion about whether the barrels should be placed on their sides or left standing. Do we really need all barrels? Possibly only place them where there has been a request and ask those people to keep them clear of trash.

Compost Area - Elaine Schmerling & Chris Monson:

No activity.

Sunnyside – Chris Monson:

All signs put up have been destroyed. Our DNREC representative has ordered more and we are trying to come up with solutions to this vandalism. One sign in fact was torched – luckily the tree did not catch fire.

Paths - Elaine Schmerling:

Last of our Pathways money used in December to clear the path by the stream towards the Arden border. Hal's crew did an AMAZING job of safely sawing a dead tree down.

Misc - Elaine Schmerling:

The old "Weed-n-Walk" is now the "Woodland Restoration Warmup" and advertised by email and on Ardenistas Facebook site.

Carol Larsen (Arden) and Elaine are taking a break on the tree grants this year. We will still have an Arbor Day tree planting.

There is an ongoing parking issue on the East Mall. Individuals continue to park in the trees and on the grass. A reminder notice about parking will be put in the Arden Page.

If anyone has their trash/recycling/yard waste containers not picked up on regular trash days, call Waste Management 994-0944, tell them you have been directed by the Trustees of Ardentown to call and give them your address.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: Steven Curley - Nothing to report.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Harry Themal - We had a nice balanced budget until it was announced that Brandywine School District is holding a referendum in March that would have raised the Land Rent by nearly 8%. The Trustees felt this amount was too much and so they reduced to about a 6% increase and will cover any difference out of reserves if needed. An additional \$3500 was given to the Village to cover excess snow removal expenses.

A resident raised concerns about the deficit in the budget. Harry Themal explained the deficit is based on if the referendum passes as proposed; this may be better or worse depending on the final figures for the referendum and if New Castle County decides to increase property taxes.

BUZZ COMMITTEE: Terri Hansen - The Buzz Ware Committee will be presenting the plans for repairing the exterior of the Buzz in two public meetings to be held February 15 and February 17, both at 7:30. Rentals continue to be robust and revenue and expenses are running nearly even. Community events are well attended.

TOWN CHAIR REPORT:

1. FEMA requested that the resolution to adopt the NCC All Hazard Mitigation Plan (NCC AHMP) at the May 11 town meeting, be dated after May 26th, 2015. A motion was made to re-adopt the NCC AHMP, seconded, and unanimously approved.
2. The town has received a letter from an engineering firm asking if we would consider a communications tower on town land. The chair will ask for more information and if of interest, we will ask representatives to attend the next town meeting.

ELECTIONS:

Archive Committee: Peter Slattery unanimously re-elected as Ardentown representative.

Memorial Garden: Betty Ann Themal and Rusty Hoegger unanimously re-elected.

NEW BUSINESS

June Kleban suggests that the new Directory that we find some way to identify which Arden people live- A for Arden, AT for Ardentown, and AC for Ardencroft. She also feels that it is time for a map update.

Betty Ann Themal- Recognized new town meeting attendees- Tim and Katherine Donovan, Mahri and Stuart Craig, and Renata Brito-Cherrin.

Hans Francke- Alerted residents that the recycle truck left a trail of broken glass; the problem was resolved but please be alert.

Road repair is piecemeal and he would like to see the Public Works and Safety work on a road survey and a long-term plan so we can budget and prepare. Cheryl Regan says that the Public Works Committee is working on reducing costs for minor repairs so that we can work on longer stretches of road.

Renata Brito-Cherrin - Expressed concern regarding 1501 Valley Road. It is a hazard and an eyesore due to recent fire, and there may be safety issues related to electric wires and tree limbs. What can neighbors do? Residents can call NCC Code Enforcement, for property concerns. A resident called the Trustees and they sent someone to clear items from the yard.

The Arden Building and Loan is also involved. Joan Fitzgerald spoke as a member of the AB&L board. The Board has hired someone to board the windows and doors. The Board has involved an attorney and has bids out to clean up the property as quickly as possible. This takes time and the process has steps to follow, the AB&L Board is working as swiftly as possible.

A resident inquired about the responsibility of the Trustees vs Leaseholders. Ultimately it is the leaseholders responsibility to keep the property clean and safe. In the absence of that the Trustee and the AB&L work within the limits of the law and budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25

Respectfully Submitted

Terri Hansen